Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 28 and 29. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1.   (Currently amended) A method for identifying fluid purification equipment which is optimized for use in a particular fluid purification system, which comprises computer implemented steps of:

providing a relational database of specifications regarding a plurality of fluid purification equipment components;

~~accessing said database in connection with~~ through an interactive interface, ~~of an operating system comprising~~ receiving user responses to a series of sequential inquiries, said inquiries piecewise eliciting from a user a set of defining information regarding said particular fluid purification system, each subsequent inquiry in the series being dependent on user responses to previous inquiries in the series, the set of defining information including operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system;

~~receiving user responses to the series of sequential inquiries, each subsequent inquiry in the series being dependent on user responses to previous inquiries in the series;~~

from across the whole series of sequential inquiries, forming the set of defining information from received user responses; and

using said formed set of defining information, searching specifications of said database in a manner that automatically ~~identifying~~ identifies for the user a fluid purification equipment package in its entirety that is formed of a resultant set of one or more of the plurality of fluid purification equipment components from the specifications in the database, the resultant set of one or more identified components capable of being assembled to form [[the]] fluid purification equipment in a manner specific to said particular fluid purification system as set forth by the set of defining information and operated to substantially satisfy the operating parameters therein for optimized fluid

purification, the automatic identification of the fluid purification equipment <u>package</u> being performed in a manner free of user selection from and interaction with lists of individual components <u>in the interactive interface</u>.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously presented) A method as in Claim 1 further comprising at least one of said operating parameters being selected from the group consisting of fluid type, fluid flow rate, inlet fluid contaminant challenge, outlet fluid purity, duty cycle, life span between service, fluid temperature, fluid pressure, cost and connections to upstream and downstream portions of said particular fluid purification system.

4.   (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said database comprises a plurality of subdatabases, each subdatabase comprising selection information regarding at least one property of at least one said component of said fluid purification equipment.

5.   (Original) A method as in Claim 4 wherein a series of said responses to inquiries through said interface causes said operating system to compile a series of component selections from said plurality of subdatabases, which components will, when assembled, form said fluid purification equipment which can be operated so as to optimize fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system.

6.   (Original) A method as in Claim 5 further comprising causing said subdatabases to be addressed sequentially, a sequence of addressing being determined at each step in said sequence by said response elicited in an immediately prior step.

7.   (Original) A method as in Claim 5 wherein compilation of said series of component selections further causes said operating system to generate a subsequent series of inquiries regarding choice of equipment ancillary to said fluid purification system.

8.   (Original) A method as in Claim 7 wherein said equipment ancillary to said fluid purification system comprises fluid flow, process control and instrumentation equipment.

9.   (Original) A method as in Claim 4 wherein said selection information of at least one of said subdatabases comprises data for evaluating from said responses whether a defined component currently is available in the marketplace and if not what design and manufacture costs of said defined component would be.

10.   (Original) A method as in Claim 4 wherein said selection information of at least one of said subdatabases comprises data for evaluating from said responses whether combinations of defined components are operationally compatible and presenting a notification thereof.

11.   (Original) A method as in Claim 10 further comprising said notification including suggesting options for alternative compatible combinations.

12.   (Original) A method as in Claim 1 further comprising said using said defining information to identify a plurality of combinations of said components, wherein each combination of said plurality can be assembled to form said fluid purification equipment in a manner specific to said particular fluid purification system and can be operated so as to optimize fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system.

13.   (Original) A method as in Claim 12 wherein said combinations of said components differ from each other with respect to technical and economic parameters, and said method further comprises generating a further inquiry response to which indicates selection among said combinations of a specific combination of said technical and economic parameters most suitable for obtaining optimized fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system.

14.   (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said fluid comprises a liquid, a gas or a mixture thereof.

15.   (Original) A method as in Claim 14 wherein purification of said liquid, gas or mixture comprises removal of contaminants to a level in a parts per million or parts per billion range.

16.   (Original) A method as in Claim 14 wherein purification of said liquid, gas or mixture comprises absorption, separation or filtration.

17.   (Original) A method as in Claim 1 further comprising gaining access to said relational database by means of a computer or through a global computer network.

18.   (Original) Apparatus comprising electronic media comprising embodiment of the method of Claim 1 in a form accessible for interactive use.

19.   (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 18 further comprising said embodiment comprising a relational database and operational software therefor.

20.   (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 19 wherein said relational database comprises a plurality of subdatabases, each subdatabase comprising selection information regarding at least one property of at least one said component of said fluid purification equipment.

21.   (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 20 wherein said selection information of at least one of said subdatabases comprises data for evaluating from said responses whether combinations of defined components are operationally incompatible and presenting a notification thereof.

22.   (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 19 further comprising accessability to said relational database and operational software therefor being by means of a computer.

23. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 22 where said relational database and operational software therefore are maintained on and accessible from said interactive storage media disposed within said computer.

24. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 23 wherein said interactive storage media comprises a memory hard drive, a CD-ROM or a DVD-ROM.

25. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 22 wherein said computer comprises a desktop computer, a laptop computer or an Internet-access-specific computer.

26. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 18 wherein said electronic media comprises a global computer network.

27. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 26 further comprising said embodiment comprising a relational database and operational software therefore, with accessability thereto being through an Internet Web site on said global computer network.

28. (Currently amended) A method for identifying fluid purification equipment which is optimized for use in a particular fluid purification system, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

providing a relational database of specifications regarding a plurality of fluid purification equipment components;

~~accessing said database in connection with~~ through an interactive interface ~~of an operating system comprising~~ receiving user responses to a series of sequential inquiries, said inquiries piecewise eliciting a set of defining information regarding said particular fluid purification system, each subsequent inquiry in the series being dependent on user responses to previous inquiries in the series, the set of defining information including operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system;

~~receiving user responses to the series of sequential inquiries, each subsequent inquiry in the series being dependent on user responses to previous~~

~~inquiries in the series, and~~ from across the received user responses, obtaining the set of defining information;

using said obtained set of defining information, <u>accessing the database</u> and automatically identifying <u>for a user</u> a fluid purification equipment <u>package</u> in its entirety, <u>said fluid purification equipment package being</u> ~~that is~~ formed of a resultant set of one or more of the plurality of fluid purification equipment components from the specifications in the database, the resultant set of one or more identified components capable of being assembled to form [[the]] fluid purification equipment in a manner specific to said particular fluid purification system according to the set of defining information and operated to substantially satisfy the operating parameters therein for optimized fluid purification, the automatic identification of the fluid purification equipment <u>package</u> being performed in a manner free of user selection from and interaction with lists of individual fluid purification equipment components <u>in the interactive interface</u>; and

providing an option to purchase said automatically identified fluid purification equipment <u>package</u>.

29.   (Currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method for identifying fluid purification equipment which is optimized for use in a particular fluid purification system, which comprises:

providing a relational database of specifications regarding a plurality of fluid purification equipment components;

~~coupling an operating system to the database to access the database;~~

through an interactive interface ~~of the operating system~~, providing a series of sequential inquiries to a user, each subsequent inquiry in the series being dependent on user responses to previous inquiries in the series, said series <u>piecewise</u> eliciting a body of defining information regarding said particular fluid purification system, the body of defining information including operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system;

receiving user responses to the series of sequential inquiries and therefrom forming said body of defining information; and

using said formed body of defining information to retrieve specifications from the database and therefrom automatically identifying [[a]] for a user one or more fluid purification equipment packages each in its entirety, [[the]] each identified fluid purification equipment package being formed of a respective resultant set of one or more of the plurality of fluid purification equipment components from the specifications in the database, the resultant set of one or more identified components capable of being assembled to form [[the]] fluid purification equipment in a manner specific to said particular fluid purification system as defined by the body of defining information and operated to substantially satisfy the operating parameters therein for optimized fluid purification, the automatic identification of the fluid purification equipment packages being performed in a manner free of user selection from and interaction with lists of individual fluid purification equipment components in the interactive interface.